

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-11 and 17-25 are cancelled, and claims 12-16 and 26-27 are amended. Thus, claims 12-16 and 26-27 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the substitute specification and abstract illustrating the changes made to the original specification and abstract.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 13 on page 11 of the Office Action, that claims 12-16 and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations originally presented in claims 1 and 8-11.

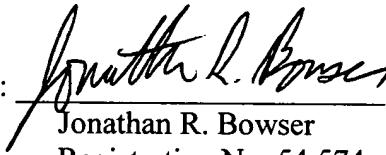
Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's assertion that claims 12-16 and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 12, as well as claims 13-16 and 26-27 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 16, 2004